General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 February 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 119 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/56/583/Add.2)*]

56/150. The right to development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, which expresses, in particular, the determination to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom as well as to employ international mechanisms for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling that the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986, confirmed that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals who make up nations,

Recalling also that the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, namely the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[1] reaffirmed the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of all fundamental human rights,

Recalling further the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development,[2] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[3] especially as they relate to the realization of the right to development,

Recalling its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration[4] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001–2010[5] adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,

---

[1] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[2] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] Resolution S-24/2, annex.

[4] A/CONF.191/12.

[5] A/CONF.191/11.

and in this regard emphasizing the importance of implementation and follow-up to the Brussels commitments,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[6] in preparation for the International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and expressing its hope that the Conference will set a new partnership for financing sustainable development and for the implementation of the goals set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[7] and other internationally agreed development targets,

Taking note of the three studies prepared by the independent expert on the right to development and his proposed possible approaches to the operationalization of the right to development,

Taking note also of the report of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Right to Development established to monitor and review progress made in the promotion and implementation of the right to development[8] and of the Chairperson's conclusions on the issue, as well as the comments submitted thereon,

Welcoming the commitment made by the heads of State and Government in the United Nations Millennium Declaration to make the right to development a reality for everyone and their resolve to create an environment, at the national and global levels alike, which is conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty, and their commitment to spare no effort to promote good governance and democracy and to strengthen the rule of law as well as respect for all universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development,

Underlining the fact that meeting the objectives of good governance also depends on good governance at the international level and on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems and an open, equitable, rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system,

Underlining also the fact that the realization of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

Underlining further the important role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of the right to development,

Recalling the need for coordination and cooperation throughout the United Nations system for a more effective promotion and realization of the right to development,

Taking note of the outcome of the South Summit of the Group of Seventy-seven, held in Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000, relating to the realization of the right to development,[9]

1. *Welcomes* the holding of two sessions of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Right to Development from 18 to 22 September 2000 and from 29 January to 2 February 2001, which focused on certain issues, as reflected in the report of the

---

[6] A/AC.257/12.

[7] See resolution 55/2.

[8] E/CN.4/2001/26.

[9] See A/55/74, annexes I and II.

Working Group,[8] and emphasizes the need to continue deliberations on the right to development in all its aspects, inter alia, on the basis of the report of the Working Group and the Chairperson's conclusions, as well as comments submitted thereon;

2. *Emphasizes* that, on the basis of the text of the Declaration on the Right to Development,[10] several resolutions and declarations adopted by consensus at subsequent international conferences and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,[1] it should now be possible to reach consensus on the full implementation of the right to development;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* for the reports of the independent expert on the right to development and his additional work on and clarifications of the "development compact" proposal, which contributed to a better understanding of that proposal, while recognizing that further clarification is still needed;

4. *Recognizes* that any development compact would be of a voluntary nature for all parties involved and that its content would be defined on a case-by-case basis and be adapted to the priorities and realities of any country willing to conclude such a compact, which would need the adherence and the support of all international actors involved in its implementation;

5. *Notes* the request by the Commission on Human Rights that the independent expert clarify further the proposed development compact, taking into consideration views expressed during the two sessions of the Working Group and in broad consultation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies, relevant international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and, in particular, those actors and States interested in developing pilot projects in this regard, keeping in mind:

(*a*) The ongoing bilateral, regional and multilateral development cooperation programmes;

(*b*) The formulation of an operational model for a development compact;

(*c*) The views of concerned international organizations and agencies and relevant regional institutions and actors;

(*d*) The need to ensure the added value of a development compact to and its complementarity with the relevant existing mechanisms;

(*e*) The need to address and remedy the national and international dimensions of corruption;

(*f*) The need for country-specific studies from both a national and an international perspective;

6. *Reaffirms* that States have the primary responsibility for the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development and that they are committed to cooperating with each other to that end;

7. *Also reaffirms* that the realization of the right to development is essential to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which regards all human rights as universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and which also places the human person at the centre of development and recognizes

[10] Resolution 41/128, annex.

that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights;

8. *Recognizes* that, in order to realize the right to development, national action and international cooperation must reinforce each other in a manner that goes beyond the measures for realizing each individual right, and also recognizes that international cooperation for the realization of the right to development should be conducted in the spirit of a partnership, in full respect for all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated;

9. *Also recognizes* that, for many developing countries, the realization of the rights to, inter alia, food, health and education may be important development entry points to the realization of the right to development and that, in this context, the concept of a development compact proposed by the independent expert intends to give expression to some basic tenets of the interdependence of all human rights and national ownership of development strategies and programmes, as well as the importance of international cooperation;

10. *Notes* the ongoing discussion on the question of a suitable permanent follow-up mechanism and the different views expressed thereon in the Working Group, and recognizes the need for a discussion on this issue;

11. *Stresses* the necessity of establishing, at the national level, an enabling legal, political, economic and social environment for the realization of the right to development, and emphasizes the importance of democratic, participatory, transparent and accountable governance, as well as the need for efficient national mechanisms, such as national human rights commissions, to ensure respect for civil, economic, cultural, political and social rights, without any distinction;

12. *Also stresses* the need to prevent, address and take effective action against corruption, at both the national and international levels, including by establishing a firm legal structure for eradicating corruption, and urges States to take all necessary measures to that end;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of the role of the State, civil society, free and independent media, national institutions, the private sector and other relevant institutions in the realization of the right to development, and also recognizes the need to continue discussion on this subject;

14. *Affirms* the role of women in the process of the realization of the right to development, including their role as active participants in and beneficiaries of development, and the need for further actions in this context to ensure the participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields in the realization of the right to development;

15. *Also affirms* the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective means to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate sustainable development, as well as the importance of equal rights and opportunities for women and men, including property rights for women and their access to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, taking into account the best practices of microcredit in different parts of the world;

16. *Underlines* the fact that, in the process of the realization of the right to development, special attention should be given to persons belonging to minorities, whether national, ethnic, religious or linguistic, as well as to persons belonging to vulnerable groups, such as elderly people, indigenous people, persons facing

discrimination on multiple grounds, Roma, migrants, persons with disabilities and children and persons infected with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), and that such attention should have a gender perspective;

17. *Affirms* in this context that attention should also be given to the right to development of children, with special attention to the rights of the girl child;

18. *Acknowledges* the need to continue discussion on the role of civil society in the realization of the right to development and the role of national institutions in this respect;

19. *Reaffirms* the need for States to cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development, recognizes the importance of the international community in promoting effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development, and also recognizes that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level;

20. *Reiterates* that the gap between developed and developing countries remains unacceptably wide, that developing countries continue to face difficulties in participating in the globalization process, and that many risk being marginalized and effectively excluded from its benefits;

21. *Recognizes*, while bearing in mind the existing efforts in this respect, that it is necessary to enhance efforts to consider and evaluate the impact on the enjoyment of human rights of international economic and financial issues, such as:

(*a*) International trade issues;

(*b*) Access to technology;

(*c*) Good governance and equity at the international level;

(*d*) Debt burden;

22. *Notes* the request by the Commission on Human Rights that the independent expert prepare, in consultation with all relevant United Nations agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, a preliminary study on the impact of those issues on the enjoyment of human rights, starting with an analysis of the existing efforts and means of assessing and evaluating that impact, for consideration by the Working Group at its future sessions;

23. *Also notes* the request by the Commission on Human Rights that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the international financial institutions and other relevant actors collaborate with the independent expert in the fulfilment of his mandate, and encourages further cooperation;

24. *Further notes* the request by the Commission on Human Rights that the Working Group and the independent expert consider, as appropriate, the relevant economic and development outcomes of the international conferences, inter alia, the South Summit of the Group of Seventy-seven,[9] and the follow-up thereto, in elaborating their recommendations for the implementation of the right to development;

25. *Decides* to continue consideration of the issue of the right to development, as a matter of priority, at its fifty-seventh session.

88th plenary meeting
19 December 2001

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 February 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 119 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/56/583/Add.2)*]

56/151. Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/107 of 4 December 2000, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/65 of 25 April 2001,[1]

Reaffirming the commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights and international law,

Affirming that the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights should continue to be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law as set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter and, inter alia, with full respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State,

Recalling the Preamble to the Charter, in particular the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

Reaffirming that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[2] can be fully realized,

Reaffirming also the determination expressed in the Preamble to the Charter to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to practise tolerance and good-neighbourliness,

---

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 3* (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Considering also that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Reaffirming that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Emphasizing that democracy is not only a political concept but that it also has economic and social dimensions,

Recognizing that democracy, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development,

Underlining the fact that it is imperative for the international community to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people, and that only through broad and sustained efforts, based on common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable,

Stressing that efforts to make globalization fully inclusive and equitable must include policies and measures, at the global level, that correspond to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation,

Resolved, at the beginning of a new century and millennium, to take all measures within its power to secure a democratic and equitable international order,

1. *Affirms* that everyone is entitled to a democratic and equitable international order;

2. *Also affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order fosters the full realization of all human rights for all;

3. *Further affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order requires, inter alia, the realization of the following:

(*a*) The right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(*b*) The right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources;

(*c*) The right of every human person and all peoples to development;

(*d*) The right of all peoples to peace;

(*e*) The promotion of an international economic order based on equal participation in the decision-making process, interdependence, mutual interest, solidarity and cooperation among all States;

(*f*) Solidarity, as a fundamental value, by virtue of which global challenges must be managed in a way that distributes costs and burdens fairly in accordance with basic principles of equity and social justice and ensures that those who suffer or who benefit the least receive help from those who benefit the most;

(*g*) The promotion and consolidation of transparent, democratic, just and accountable international institutions in all areas of cooperation, in particular through the implementation of the principles of full and equal participation in their respective decision-making mechanisms;

(*h*) The principle of equitable regional and gender-balanced representation in the composition of the staff of the United Nations system;

(*i*) The promotion of a free, just, effective and balanced international information and communications order, based on international cooperation for the establishment of a new equilibrium and greater reciprocity in the international flow of information, in particular, correcting the inequalities in the flow of information to and from developing countries;

(*j*) Respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all, since this enhances cultural pluralism, contributes to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural backgrounds, advances the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights across the world and fosters stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

(*k*) The entitlement of every person and all peoples to a healthy environment;

(*l*) The promotion of equitable access to benefits from the international distribution of wealth through enhanced international cooperation, in particular in economic, commercial and financial international relations;

(*m*) The enjoyment by everyone of ownership of the common heritage of mankind;

(*n*) The shared responsibility of the nations of the world for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security that should be exercised multilaterally;

4. *Stresses* the importance of preserving the rich and diverse nature of the international community of nations and peoples, as well as respect for national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

5. *Also stresses* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and reaffirms that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

6. *Reaffirms* that all States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in particular that of the developing countries;

7. *Recalls* the proclamation by the General Assembly of its determination to work urgently for the establishment of an international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations;[3]

8. *Reaffirms* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove the current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world;

9. *Urges* States to continue their efforts, through enhanced international cooperation, towards the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

10. *Requests* the Commission on Human Rights, the human rights treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to pay due attention, within their respective mandates, to the present resolution and to make contributions towards its implementation;

11. *Calls upon* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to build upon the issue of the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order and to take into account the present resolution when convening any seminar, workshop or any other activity in relation to the issue of democracy;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs, bodies and components, intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations and to disseminate it on the widest possible basis;

13. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter at its fifty-seventh session under the agenda item entitled "Human rights questions".

88th plenary meeting
19 December 2001

[3] See resolution 3201 (S-VI).